

CONVICT LABOR NEXT PROBLEM

Committees Begin Joint Sessions
To-Night to Consider
Entire Subject.

OTHER PENDING HEARINGS

Legislative Redistricting, Prohibition and Woman's College Are on List.

Contract convict labor will, for the next few days, occupy the attention of the Senate and House Committees on Roads and Internal Navigation, which will sit jointly, beginning at 8 o'clock to-night in the Senate chamber, to consider the whole proposition of road building and the employment of prisoners. The hearings will attract considerable attention, and are likely to be rather prolonged.

The existing contract between the State and the "Thatcher" company will expire on May 1, 1912. Under its provisions all the available prisoners in the penitentiary not drafted for road building are given employment in the shoe shops. For this service the State receives 15 cents for the labor of each man, and 25 cents for that of each woman, furnishing their board and all necessities of life, and the building used by the manufacturing company.

Can Get More Money.
More than a year ago the board of directors of the penitentiary determined that this contract should not be renewed, since the prices paid are now generally regarded as very inadequate. The general cost of labor since the contract was made has largely increased in all lines. The board further decided that it would not act as to making a new contract with any concern, but would lay the whole matter before the General Assembly and await its instructions. A bill is now pending in the House calendar, with James J. Cramer, of Richmond, as its sponsor, to forbid this board making any contract without the consent of the Legislature, and this may or may not precipitate the issue of convict labor when it comes up on its second reading within a day or two.

In response to invitations for bids, the only proposal received was from the Reliance Company, of Chicago, a large employer of prison labor, which desires to manufacture shirts and overalls. Its proposal is to pay 65 cents per day for 500 men, and 42-45 cents for all the women who can be secured. In addition it has details in its bid which are regarded as conveying more favorable conditions than those which have prevailed.

Consider Redistricting.
Sitting also jointly, the Senate and House Committees on Privileges and Elections will, to-night, at 8 o'clock, hold a consideration of the bill offered by John W. Chadwick, of Wise, for the redistricting of the lines of representation in the State Senate and House of Delegates. The Wise county map, which is the basis of the bill, is arbitrary in its intentions, but merely a basis to work on, and so figured out populations of counties and cities for himself and evolved a plan. He does not expect it to go through as it stands, but it is understood that amendments agreed upon by local delegations.

Under whatever plan is adopted, it is probable that Richmond will have an increased population. It should also have more than 200,000 people, but is hardly entitled to three. The Chamberlain bill would give Richmond and Henric together three members of the House. In that event the city would dominate, but it is supposed it would as a rule give the county one. Southwest counties gain largely by the new apportionment, to the loss of other counties in the eastern part of the State, which are stationary in population.

The Jordan prohibition enabling act comes up again to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, and this time the opposition will be heard from. The affirmative has 300 votes, and one-half hour, so it is understood that the hearing can be finished to-morrow. At 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon about half of the members of the Legislature will go to Newport News to attend the annual session of the Chamber of Commerce.

A decision will probably be reached as to the proposed woman's college by the Senate committee to-morrow morning. The long argument is believed to have ended.

DEATH LIST GROWS

Two More Victims Added to Those Hurt in Gayton Explosion.

Five deaths have resulted from the dynamite explosion on January 16 at the Gayton Coal Mines, Henric county, operated by the Old Dominion Development Company. Two Italian miners were killed outright, a third died the following day at the Virginia Hospital, and two more died last Tuesday. One of the victims, an American, died Friday morning. Of the six men who were hurt only one is now living. He is Antonio Marino and is at the Virginia Hospital where it was said last night that it was thought that he would recover.

Aside from fractured arm and other injuries, Marino and Marcellina contracted pneumonia. The exact cause of the explosion was never determined, though it was believed that the charge of dynamite was fired too quickly by the men working in a tunnel.

Ten Negroes Caught.

Ten negroes, engaged in playing craps and "skin" in a room of the west end of South Richmond, were caught yesterday in a raid made by Captain Wright and Officers Westcott, Webster and Moore, of the Third District.

THE SAVINGS BANK OF RICHMOND
107 E. MAIN ST.

No matter what happens, with money in bank you can overcome almost any difficulty.

UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY FOR POSTAL SAVING FUNDS.

MANAGER HOTCHKISS SITS FOR ONE GREAT INTERVIEW

Not the Skillit Kind Exactly, but It Relates to His Bunch of Minstrel Men, Who Are to Perform for Charity.



Henry S. Hotchkiss.

The next to the end man in the Hotchkiss Impromptu Minstrel show, sent out on Saturday night a bulletin to the effect that Manager Henry S. Hotchkiss would sit for an interview yesterday and that he was prepared to issue an important statement. Thinking, therefore, that the show had busted, a reporter called on Mr. Hotchkiss, which is the way it is written by the politician who brings his own interview to a newspaper—and asked him if the high price of butter would have any effect on the first night's attendance. Mr. Hotchkiss showed clearly that he did not desire to be interviewed, though he took particular pains to see that the reporter did not get away without a big supply of printable goods.

"While traveling through West Virginia in 1907," said the manager, asking for a cigarette, "I met a fellow on the silver question, and I have since kept him in the Annapolis Club. Do you write shorthand? No? Well, just make it appear that I was averse to talking, but please be sure to get my first name right."

"You might begin your little article by saying that the minstrel part of the show will come first, for reasons which need not necessarily be set forth here, and that the low-brow songs and cheap comedy methods of Tinker, Tucker and Gordon will be set off by the strictly classical and severe style of the Minstrel, as poured out by Forbes, Skekel and myself. Did you get that?"

"In the matter of jokes, we do not

propose to hand out anything raw or ancient. For instance, when Doug Gordon whips out his police commissioner's pistol and threatens to shoot Empire Westcott, Charlie Skekel will not holler, 'Shoot him in the coat; the pants belong to me.' Moreover, it is a mistake to assume that we are going to take that well-known citizen of Richmond who never buys and introduce him as a spendthrift. Indeed, we hope to get out of the Dingbat class.

"Please be sure and request the audience not to laugh while Jim Pollard is giving his suffragette monologue. I have been asked to make the same request on behalf of Charlie Baschen. He will tell of the old days at the McCabe School, and when Pleas Conquest asks him what did a certain professor teach, Charlie will reply: 'Why, he taught me to be a politician.' Of course, I just give you this as a sample to advertise our jokes. Under this special dispensation from Governor Mann we will be permitted to say what we please about anybody in Richmond, and I have it from Major Werner that I have the first person who hurls a cabbage will be arrested and locked up without bail. I regret that I cannot speak of the other features of the show, though I understand that Otis Friend has translated a celebrated detective farce which he will put on with his big brother. He kind enough to make it plain—and in so doing state that you have it on the authority of others—that Manager Hotchkiss will really give a performance. I should mention all my actors and aviators by name, but time is pressing, and I shall blunt them, for truly they are some bunch. We will try to avoid any reference to political suffrage, coeducation, female suffrage, Virginia League and Jackson Ward, but what we skip there we will make up in melody."

BIGGEST ENGINES EVER BUILT HERE

American Locomotive Company Gets Order for Four From the Virginian Railway.

Orders have been placed with the Richmond Branch of the American Locomotive Company for the four largest engines ever built here. They will be of the Mallet compound type, and are being constructed for the coal trade of the Virginian Railway. Specifications have not yet reached the shops, except as to general measurements, but the plant is looking forward with interest to the undertaking. It already holds records for large engines of other types, and has built some Mallet compounds that rank among the largest and best, but the four new ones for the Virginian will set a new standard for locomotives for heavy traction through mountain sections.

Bids have been submitted by the local plant on a number of other locomotive orders, and several large contracts are anticipated. The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, a widely known hard coal road, has asked bids on four locomotives from the home office of the company in New York. The Delaware and Hudson has contracted for twelve consolidation locomotives to be built at the American plant at Schenectady. The Canadian Pacific has ordered five ten-wheel locomotives, and five freight locomotives from the American Company's plant at Montreal, and will build fifty additional locomotives in the company's own shops.

CHESTERMAN TO ERECT NEW HOTEL

Contract Is Awarded for Building at Eighth and Grace Streets.

Contract has been awarded to Contractor W. A. Chesterman for erection of the new eight-story hotel at the southeast corner of Eighth and Grace streets. A copy of the architect's drawings, as well as the plans of the building, appeared in the Times-Dispatch yesterday. The hotel is being erected by Henry S. Wallerstein and James J. Pollard on plans drawn by Carnell and Johnston of this city. The contract price has not yet been announced. The building is to be a modern and up-to-date in every detail. The lot was secured by Mr. Wallerstein some time since for the purpose of erecting a theatre, but on account of opposition from neighboring churches, the plans were withdrawn, and new drawings are now being prepared for erection of the proposed theatre at Ninth and Broad streets, on the site now occupied by the Park Hotel.

Application has already been made to the City Council for an increase in the number of liquor licenses from 150 to 175, in order that a license may be issued to the new hotel.

The Builders' Exchange announces that plans for a new ice cream factory for L. K. Shepherd are being prepared by Architect D. Wiley Anderson, and that bids will be invited this week.

POLICE FIND LIQUOR
John Neenan Is Charged With Running a Speakeasy.

John Neenan, of 2192 East Main Street, was arrested yesterday on charge of selling intoxicating liquor without a license and on Sunday. He was caught by Officers Traylor, Bornstein and Lee, who employed a man to go into his place to buy a drink. This man is said to have employed another, and it is alleged that Neenan at this third party something to quench his thirst. Several half-pints of whiskey and innumerable empty bottles were confiscated by the police.

VIRGINIA MILITIA MAY GET AVIATORS

War Department Wants Aeronautical Companies Formed in All of the States.

Richmond members of the Virginia Volunteers are much interested in the announcement that the Department of Militia Affairs in Washington has begun a movement with the idea of forming an aerial militia in every State in the Union.

Adjutant-General W. W. Sale has not been officially advised of the plan of the War Department, but he is confident that the time is not far distant when the training of men in Virginia will be begun for the prospective aviator.

General Leonard Wood, General Allen, head of the Signal Corps of the United States Army; Lieutenant Benjamin A. Foulis, U. S. A., inspector-general of the aeronautical division of the Department of Militia Affairs, and a representative of the Aeronautical Society, which has promised its support in the movement for the organization of a militia aeronautical squadron, will hold a conference in Washington to-day for the purpose of mapping out a course of work.

Lecturers, it is expected, will be sent out by the Aeronautical Society for the purpose of familiarizing men who wish to become air soldiers with the fundamentals of aviation.

On account of the great expense involved in buying machines outright from manufacturers, it is the present policy to teach the soldiers to build their own craft, which may be done for a few hundred dollars, while the cost of purchasing a complete aeroplane would go well into thousands.

The Coast Guard Artillery of Connecticut has already started a movement to organize an aeronautical company, while Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, and Louisiana have already formed branches of aerial militia.

REPORT HOLD-UPS

C. W. Sampler and Jeff Jones Tell Police They Were Robbed.

C. W. Sampler, of 319 North Nineteenth Street, reported to the police yesterday that he was held up on Eighteenth Street by three young negro men and robbed of \$1 and a pawn ticket. He said that two of the negroes caught hold of him, while the third went through his pockets. He hurried to the First Police Station and there reported the hold-up.

Jeff Jones, of the Broad Street Road, said that he was robbed yesterday of \$5 at 125 North Seventeenth Street. He stated that he was enticed to the place by two negro men and a woman, and that one of them grabbed his pocketbook and ran. Detective-Sergeant Whitshire was assigned to look into the robbery.

OUTDOOR WEATHER HARD ON POLICE

Many Officers on Sick List, and Condition of Several Is Desperate.

COLD WINTER IS RESPONSIBLE

Surgeon Brock's Record Already Filled With Names of Those at Home.

Advantages of outdoor life, so much talked of and preached for in the medical magazines and journals, would seem to receive a little setback when one considers the amount of illness now rife among the members of the Richmond police force. The blank used to record the names of those reported ill by Surgeon C. W. Brock day by day is said to be full, and if any more should be reported on the sick list, another blank will have to be prepared. There are not more men on the sick list, one of whom, Bicycle Policeman W. H. Palmer, is so critically ill that he has practically no hopes for his recovery. He became suddenly ill on the street several days ago, and, unfortunately, in a few days of violent coughing. He was taken home, and his condition has become steadily worse. Tuberculous bacilli were discovered to be existing at an advanced stage. He suffered violent hemorrhages again yesterday, and it is said to be but a matter of a few days at the best that he can live.

Others on Sick List.

Captain W. A. Barfoot, of the First District, is seriously ill at his home on Pine Street, but will recover. He suffered a bad fall when chasing a negro a few days ago, and has been laid up since. Policeman Tignor, of the Second District, is just recovering from a severe attack of appendicitis. Bicycle Policeman G. P. Smith, of the First District, is dangerously ill with pneumonia, and officers who are more or less ill are Bicycle Policemen Bryant and Policemen Hackett, Dugan, Jennings and Tinsley. All of these men spend most of their time out of doors, enduring changing seasons and undergoing excess of heat and cold. The members of the mail squad are particularly exposed to chilling drafts, and have but little space in which to exercise themselves in an effort to keep warm. It is their duty to stand in one position eight hours continuously, though they may be relieved on call or in case of emergency by the beatmen nearest to them. The beatsmen must report through the signal boxes every half-hour, and have a wide range of territory to cover, so that they have but little opportunity to warm themselves in some doorway or other sheltered place. The mounted men are also exposed to all the vagaries of the weather, drenching rains and cutting winds. The patrolmen have, perhaps, the easiest duty, though it is declared to be hard enough.

"It just goes to show," said an officer yesterday, "that the public is much mistaken in thinking that the lot of the policeman is easy. Most people speak of us in ignorance, not through malice. And let me tell you, a bright smile and a little sympathy to the policeman patrolling his lonely beat in the dead hour of night go a long way toward making his life more pleasant. After a few months of service the policeman learns to take his lot, to discount excessive praise and to forgive those who talk without understanding. The majority of them perform their duty in comparative obscurity. A few come out into the limelight and are known."

"But," said one of them yesterday, "that man who faithfully guards his beat and prevents crime by his presence is as deserving of praise as he who captures a noted cracksmen and becomes known."

Sergeant Dinks, the retired police dog, now living a life of comfort and ease, who had heard the quiet conversation, wagged his tail in approval.

Jefferson Hotel Arrests.

S. W. Brown, Jr., Philadelphia; Sam R. Henderson, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sten, Newark; J. F. Risson, Danville, Edward M. Hill, New York; Lewis T. Bue, St. Louis; J. Cox, New York; W. T. Johnson, Jr., Virginia; H. P. Murray, New York; R. W. Darling and wife, Huntington, W. Va.; A. C. Martin, Pittsburgh; W. B. Martin, Pittsburgh; W. E. Martin, Detroit, Mich.; C. Adams, New York; Miss B. B. Coleman, Roanoke; H. D. Jennings, Philadelphia; C. L. Tolt's, Hartford, Conn.; L. R. Stinson, Burlington, Vt.; Bronley D. Tucker, Lynchburg, Va.; J. D. Ward, Bay View, N. Y.; J. P. Smith, Lynchburg; W. Mansfield, Boston; H. J. Cullen, Philadelphia; A. M. Wentworth, Massachusetts; B. H. Williamson, Memphis, Tenn.; Thos. B. Arnold, Indianapolis.

Wants Council to Speak.

Senator Polkes held the bill up in Senate to know whether it had the sanction of the Richmond City Council. It is not among the list of bills and charter changes which the Council has by resolution requested of the General Assembly. The city government, however, formally expressed itself on the subject. A test vote on indorsement of the Montague bill in the Council, it is believed, would be largely a show-down of the strength of the Winston and Throckmorton supporters for the electric plant superintendency. Meanwhile several other candidates for that position are keeping steadily and quietly at work. As the bill is now drafted it would apply to any position, and would not, as erroneously printed yesterday, exempt the office of City Attorney. It has been suggested that the bill be amended so as to apply only to positions requiring technical knowledge of engineering, gas making, hydraulics or electricity.

Charged With Assault.

Arthur Stewart, colored, was arrested early yesterday on charge of feloniously assaulting Willie Mosby with a knife.

John Gies, colored, was taken in because it was said that he had abandoned two horses to their fate on the streets on January 16.

BROAD PRINCIPLE BEHIND MEASURE

Montague Bill Gives City Right to Pick Best Men to Manage Departments.

ALREADY PASSED HOUSE

Held Up in Senate Until Sentiment of Council Can Be Secured.

Opinion in the City Council is divided as to the merits of the Montague bill, now pending before the General Assembly, designed to shorten to thirty days the required time of residence before a candidate for office becomes eligible for a city position. It has been charged by those opposing the bill that it was introduced by Mr. Montague in behalf of his brother-in-law, Charles R. Winston, who for some time a citizen of Henrico county, is now a candidate for the position of Superintendent of the Municipal Electric Plant and can only be made eligible by such a reduction in the time as will permit him to be a regularly qualified voter in Richmond before the election takes place.

Interwoven with the politics which surrounds the race of a number of candidates for this position, is a broader principle for which many Councilmen contend—the right of the city to secure expert advice wherever it is to be had.

Who Are Eligible.

City Attorney Pollard in opinions to members of the Council has made a clear distinction between officials and employees of the city government. An official is a person elected or appointed to fill an office which has been duly created by ordinance defining his powers and duties and fixing his compensation. Employees include per diem laborers, men employed by the Council or any committee for specific services. Officials the City Attorney has held, must be qualified voters of the city, to conform to section 32 of the State Constitution.

Cannot Go Out of State.

In the debates before the Committee on Changes in the Form of City Government last fall, when revised sections of the City Charter were under debate, the point was raised that the time might come when the city would desire to employ a high priced expert engineer to supervise all of its public works—a \$10,000 or \$12,000 man, such as would be considered as chief engineer of a great railway system, or of similar public undertakings. Mr. Pollard ruled that it was impracticable to go out of the State, as such an official must be a citizen and voter. To acquire citizenship a citizen of some other section of the country must be domiciled in this State two years and of the county, city or town one year, and of the precinct in which he offers to vote thirty days preceding the election in which he offers to vote, according to section 15 of the Constitution.

At the Electric Plant.

The city has so far dodged the issue in the case of its electric plant. Consulting Engineer E. W. Trafford, a native of this State, and a great citizen, who was for a time connected with the old Virginia Passenger and Power Company here, was later employed by the city to make certain surveys and plans and then to supervise construction of its new electric plant. It is now the duty of the city to employ a full working order he was employed by the Committee on Electricity at \$200 per month to supervise the running of the plant pending the creation of the office of superintendent, when an election will be held by the Council in June next. Mr. Trafford arrived in America November 10, 1881, while the electric plant was under construction, he filed a notice of his intention to become a citizen of the United States on July 25, 1905, and was admitted to full citizenship by an order of the United States Court on November 1911. He has never voted in this country, but is now eligible to vote in any election held in this city, according to Federal court records, provided his poll taxes were paid six months prior, and other requirements of the election law fully met.

The Montague Bill.

Mr. Winston is the head of an electric contracting company in Richmond, and was for many years a citizen of Richmond. He moved to Barton Heights several years ago. The Montague bill has passed the House and is pending in the Senate. It amends the State law relative to the qualification of candidates for office. The general statute provides that a candidate must have the same qualifications in regard to residence as a voter—he must have been a resident of the State two years and of the city or county one year. The Montague bill, county one year, will apply only to cities of more than 70,000 population, the bill providing that candidates for office, if they are qualified citizens of the State, may be eligible as candidates after having lived in the city thirty days.

Throckmorton Bill.

People came from Norfolk last night to see about Mr. Throckmorton's bill regulating the police powers of motor men and conductors on trolley cars. The measure will be heard this morning in the House Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

The Norfolk people wanted to know what it meant. They say that in their section, particularly on suburban lines, the police powers of car employees is a valuable thing.

Elect Delegates to Convention.

Delegates to the State Republican Convention, which will meet in Roanoke March 12, will be elected to-morrow night at a meeting of the City Committee, which will take place at 8 o'clock in Murphy's Hotel.

It Starts This Morning
Our entire stock of finest Suits and Winter-weight Overcoats is offered at
33 Per Cent. Discount
Gans-Rady Company

NEED LARGER FUNDS TO IMPROVE STREETS

Growth of City Makes Demand More Insistent That People Be Lifted Out of Mud--Department to Present Its Claims 10-Night.

The Council Committee on Finance will continue to-night its series of hearings in which the various departments of the city government present a schedule of their needs and plans for expenditures during the coming year, preliminary to making up the annual appropriation ordinance. The Street Department, Department of Parks, Department of Public Buildings and the Street Cleaning Department are to be heard from to-night.

The Council Committee on Streets will also meet to-night at 8 o'clock with a large docket in prospect. The Committee on Water, which has twice failed of a quorum, has been called to meet this afternoon at 1 o'clock.

A subcommittee of the Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform will meet to-morrow night at 7:30 o'clock.

Rush to Settle Accounts.

During the next few days practically every committee of the Council

ADVERSE RULING ON PROPOSED BILL

Attorney-General Says Alexandria County Measure Is Unconstitutional.

Attorney-General Samuel W. Williams has rendered a decision, in reply to a request for a ruling to the effect that the bill now in the Senate giving the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria county the powers of a City Council, is in his opinion unconstitutional. The measure applies only to counties which have more than 300 people to the square mile, and it is supposed it refers only to Alexandria, since it is being pushed by Senator E. E. Thornton and Delegate Robinson Monroe.

Citizens of the county appeared a few days ago before a committee in behalf of the bill, saying that the county is now practically composed of many small towns, which, if they incorporate, would tie up the county's affairs. The bill also gives the judges of the Circuit Court the powers of a mayor, allowing him to take evidence and decide upon the advisability of any ordinance passed.

The Attorney-General says that the bill would prescribe a form of government not contemplated in the Constitution, which stipulates councils for cities and towns and supervisors for counties. For instance, no city can now adopt government by commission, since it is not authorized by the Constitution.

Section 45 authorizes the General Assembly to confer upon supervisors such powers as are not inconsistent with the Constitution. Counties are already, says Judge Williams, political units, and government is already provided for them by established modes, while the proposed bill would make a different form of government from both those permitted by organic law.

He believes the veto power given the judge to be also doubtful, and thinks the provisions of the proposed act to be in direct conflict with and in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution.

Throckmorton Bill.

Norfolk Opposes This One as Police Power for Conductors.

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Richmond's Post Office issued

21,732 more outgoing registers, fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, than same period 1906.

Richmond Advertisers' Club

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No matter where you want to go, you can get information by consulting
RICHMOND TRANSFER CO.,
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